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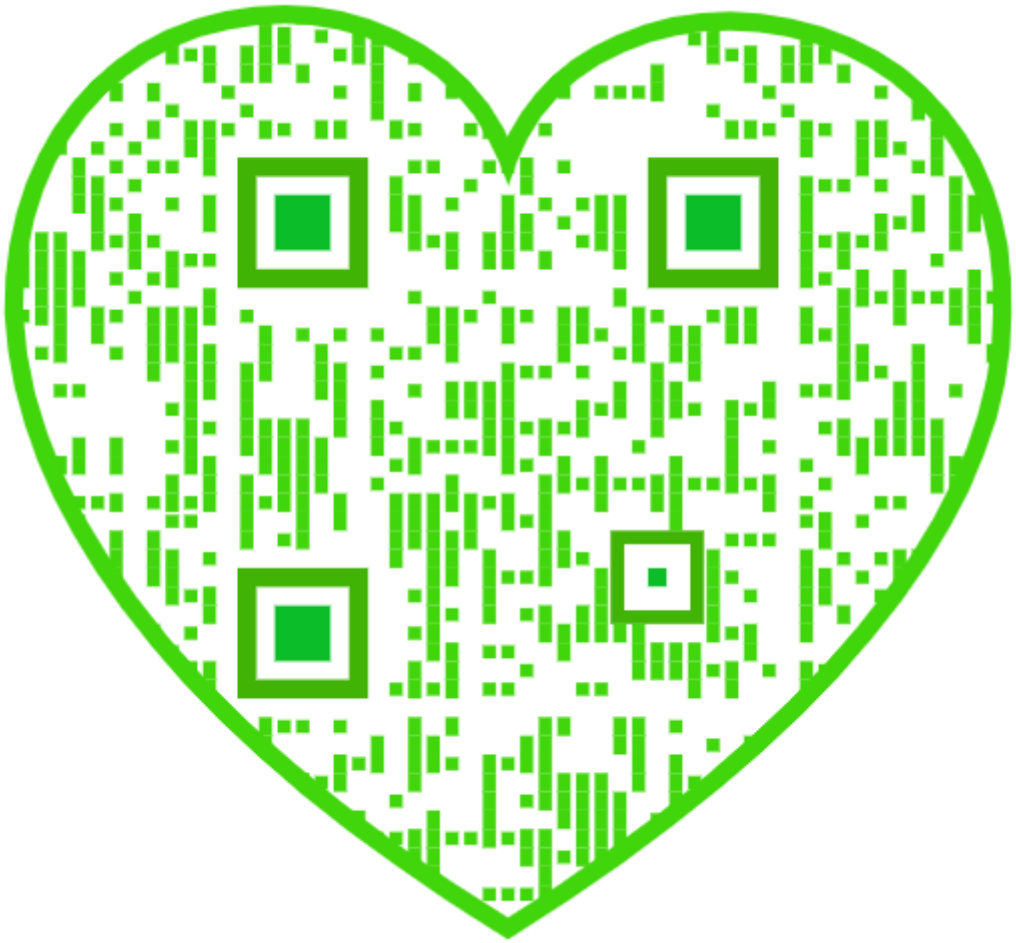

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HAND-BOOK

TO

VETERINARY MEDICINE;

OR,

A Treatise on the Sick Horse,

WITH THE

MOST SCIENTIFIC MODES OF TREATMENT.

By WILLIAM SNYDER, Veterinary Surgeon.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1870,
By WILLIAM SNYDER,
In the U. S. District Clerk's Office for the Eastern District of Mich.

ADRIAN, MICH.:

TIMES AND EXPOSITOR STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.

1870.

HAND-BOOK

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PREFACE.

THE plan of this little book is intended to be precisely such as the Author conceived to be warranted by the general reader. He trusts it will be most acceptable to those who have not the leisure or the opportunity to consult more elaborate works on the subject. "Perhaps," says Dr. Johnson, "the excellence of aphorism consists not so much in the expression of some rare or abstruse sentiment, as in the comprehension of some obvious and useful truth in a few words. We frequently fall into error and folly, not because the true principles of action are not known, but because, for a time, they are not remembered; and he may, therefore, be justly numbered among the benefactors of mankind, who contracts the great rules of life in short sentences, that may be easily impressed on the memory, and taught by frequent recollection to recur habitually to the mind."

Such a volume as this has long been wanted by the public, and the stirring interest of the theme, leaving out of view its importance, should recommend it, as likely to prove a welcome and animating addition to the study of veterinary practice. The object of the Author has been to confine himself to facts, avoiding any strong expression one way or the other, and hence the work may be safely entrusted to the popular or youthful reader; and it is the Author's hope that each reader will find some useful information on those very points about which every one possessing animals should know something. It has been said, Knowledge of a part of any science is better than ignorance of the world.

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HAND-BOOK

TO

VETERINARY MEDICINE.

By WILLIAM SNYDER, Veterinary Surgeon.

CHILLS, OR LUNG FEVER.

Symptoms.—The first symptoms which are usually observed before the chill proper sets in, may be thus described: Dullness, or want of spirits; upon the animal entering the stable after a journey, hanging of the head; standing fixedly in one place; taking little or no notice when spoken to; smelling at the food; picking amongst it, perhaps, for a short time, and then leaving it altogether. From this condition, if the animal be judiciously treated, the attack may gradually pass off, and perfectly recover; or it may pass into Catarrhal Fever, or Pneumonia, or Bronchitis, or Inflammation of the Bowels, or, what is very common, a bad Cough.

Treatment.—At the commencement of the Chill, take 4 oz. spirits of nitre, 2 oz. tincture lobelia, 2 oz. tincture

aconite, made from the root. Dose—½ oz. once in 20 minutes, until nausea is produced; then once in 2 or 3 hours, until entirely recovered. Making application of mustard blisters to the sides and chest is essentially necessary. They should be rubbed over a large extent of surface, and freely and repeatedly applied until the skin and sub-tissue become distended with serum; bandage the legs; take 3 oz. copsic, 1 qt. alcohol; bathe as far as can be bandaged; use woolen bandage; feed bran mashes; keep water in reach, with 1 table spoonful cream tartar in same; give injections with castile soap and warm water; clothe well with blankets when Chill is on; give the medicine 2 or 3 times a day while the Cough lasts. Use this medicine for Coughs and Colds.

NEPHRITIS:—Inflammation of the Kidneys.

Symptoms.—The symptoms of Nephritis, in many respects, are very similar to those which are present when the bladder is inflamed or irritated. Nephritis frequently commences in a very insidious manner; the hind limbs are moved stiffly; the abdomen is tucked up; the animal urinates frequently, and the urine is scanty. As the disease proceeds the patient walks with a straddling gait, the efforts to urinate become more frequent and more urgent, and the small portion of urine which may be expelled is mixed with blood; the animal breathes hurriedly, and the pulse is quick and irritable; the patient presents a suffering and dejected appearance, and the skin over the region of the kidneys is warmer than natural.

Use aconite in the beginning if the animal is very uneasy, and the urine is frequent, depositing a thick muddy sediment. Dose, 20 drops of tincture, repeated every half hour, alternate with 20 drops fluid extract Hyoscianus, then hot water fomentations to the loins, also as a purgative if the cause of the disease can be traced to

foul food. When such is the case, administer a 6-drachm ball forthwith, and afterwards resort to the aconite as before.

ENTERITIS:—Inflammation of the Bowels.

Symptoms.—Pain of an unceasing character, referable to the bowels, and which causes the animal to manifest more or less unceasing violence during the existence of the disease. The muscular walls of the abdomen are contracted, and the abdomen is tender upon pressure.

Treatment.—Aconite is the chief remedy to be depended upon in this disease, and should be frequently administered till a calm is established, which generally takes place in about an hour. Dose, 20 drops every 15 or 20 minutes, until relieved.

Arsenicum, Fowler's solution, if after the use of aconite some symptoms still remain, especially if the disease has been produced by green food, or by drinking cold water when heated. Dose, 1 drachm every half hour, or at longer intervals if the disease is not very violent.

Coloycinth, if arsenicum does not remove all the symptoms, especially if it is accompanied with colic, and there are bloody evacuations. Dose, the same as directed for arsenicum.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BRAIN.

This somewhat rare disease is generally met with in hot weather; horses in high condition after being exposed to the rays of the sun for a considerable time are the ones usually attacked with it; but it is sometimes produced by a blow on the head. The first symptoms of this disease are noticed by the animal having a dull, heavy appearance; he stands with his head down, and it is with difficulty that he is made to move; after a day or two his breathing becomes accelerated, with violent trembling of

the whole body, he stares wildly about, he throws up his head, rears upon his hind legs, dashes furiously and unconsciously about, plunges headlong on the ground, springs up again, gnashes his teeth, strikes at anything that happens to be in his way; after a time he becomes calm, and stands motionless, or walks slowly around.

Remedies.—Aconite, Belladonna, Veratrum and Opium.

Aconite in the very commencement of this disease, if the pulse is accelerated, fever, congestion toward the brain, rapid breathing, and trembling of the whole body. Dose, 20 drops every twenty minutes, until several doses have been taken, or the more violent symptoms subdued. Give each dose in an ounce of water.

Belladonna, if the animal has a wild, staring, fixed look, dashes furiously and unconsciously about, which is indicative of violent congestion of the brain. Dose, 20 drops every twenty or thirty minutes in half an ounce of water, until the violence of the attack is subdued.

Veratrum, if the legs and ears are icy cold, with convulsive trembling of the whole body, or where there is a reeling, staggering motion, and the animal plunges violently and falls down head foremost. Dose, the same as directed for belladonna.

Opium, if after the paroxysms the animal remains motionless, with fixed, staring eyes, the tongue of a leaden, or black color. Dose, 20 drops in half an ounce of water, every half, one, or two hours, according to circumstances.

PLEURISY.

One of the earliest symptoms which is usually noticed in this disease is that of the animal giving a clear, sharp grunt—a symptom particularly evident by turning the patient quickly around in the stall; this, in many cases, is speedily succeeded by considerable lameness in one or both fore extremities; if present in one limb only, the

patient will hold it in a fixed position; if in both, he will step with a slow, short, straddling gait.

Treatment.—The same as in lung fever throughout.

COLIC.

Colic is a common malady. The animal is suddenly attacked with acute pain in the bowels; the patient crouches; stamps with the feet violently upon the ground; kicks the abdomen with the hind feet, or throws himself down and rolls over. The pulse at first is seldom quickened; the breathing is sometimes short and hurried. In this state the patient will usually continue for a few minutes, when a cessation of the pain occurs, and the horse for a like period is quiet; after which the pain returns, with perhaps even greater severity than before. As the disease goes on, it either slowly subsides, or it takes on greater severity; the patient rolls and tumbles with greater violence; large patches of perspiration break out upon the several parts of the body, such as the sides, under the abdomen, upon the haunches, and between the hind limbs.

Treatment.—Tincture of aconite, made from the root. This remedy, in my opinion, will aid in the cure of at least sixteen cases of genuine colic out of every twenty. Great care is necessary in diluting it freely with water, and in not giving it in over-doses; otherwise it will produce frothing of the mouth of the patient, and momentary acts of swallowing, and other symptoms of a painful character. Use the tincture in 15 or 20 drop doses, in an ounce of water, from 20 to 30 minutes apart.

Nux Vomica—Fluid Extract.—Nux vomica is indicated when flatulence is present; when rumbling sounds within the abdomen are heard; when the pain is of a slow, strong, girding character; and also when the disease may be fairly attributed to a change of diet. Use it in 20 drop doses, mixed with an ounce of water. This

remedy may either be used alone, or in alternation with aconite.

Colacythis.—This remedy I have found valuable in numerous cases of Colic, arising from the animal having partaken of grass. Use it in 20 drop doses, in an ounce of water. Should the disease be attended with Tyompany, alternate Colocythis with Capsicum.

Chloroform.—The value of Chloroform as a sedative is too well known to need any further explanation of the fact in these pages. Should the disease be very acute, and obstinate in its continuance, have recourse to Chloroform. Give 60 drops for a dose; administer it in 4 ounces of water, or flour gruel, every half hour; an injection of hot water at the below named temperature—110 deg. Fahrenheit.

GASTRITIS; OR BLIND STAGGERS.

Symptoms of Acute Gastritis.—The earliest symptoms are unsteadiness of the gait. The animal reels and staggers as though drunk; the countenance is dull and stupid looking, and the horse appears to those in attendance as though only half conscious. As the disease proceeds this unconsciousness becomes more marked; the patient falls to the ground, and there remains, to all appearance powerless; the eyes either present a staring, fixed look, or the eyelids are closed; the pulse is generally slow and heaving, and the breathing slow and deep. Sometimes, however, the pulse is quick and irritable, and the breathing hurried; the bowels are constipated, and the urine scanty. In this state the patient may remain for several days, and then (if properly treated) recover; or the unconsciousness and inability to rise may not continue more than a few hours.

Aconite will be serviceable, and may always be given, especially if during an attack the horse falls down, and then tries to get up again without succeeding. Dose, 20

drops every 2 or 4 hours until relieved. If the animal turns quickly around, falls down, and continues alternately to struggle and lie quiet, give 20 drops belladonna, the same as the aconite.

If the animal lies in a stupid state, as if dead, give opium, the same as directed for aconite; give 6-dram ball of aloes, and give injections of warm water and castile soap.

FOUNDER.

Symptoms.—Throbbing of the arteries of the limbs affected, associated with unnatural heat and excessive tenderness of the feet.

Treatment.—Give 20 drops aconite in an ounce of water once in two hours until the fever subsides. Stand the horse in a tub of water, or water enough to cover the feet, bandage the legs and keep wet with cold water, give socroten aloes, 1oz at a dose.

OPHTHALMA.

First, the disease is periodic in its attack; second, it is manifested suddenly, and it is also a mitestatic affection, that is, it may suddenly disappear out of one eye, and suddenly appear in the other; third, it is attended with more or less febrile commotion of the system, especially at the outset of the disease; fourth, it is prone to terminate in Cataract, and in complete blindness of one or both eyes.

Treatment.—Use aconite in the very commencement of the disease; if there is a high degree of inflammation, the vessels of the eye congested, this remedy alone is often sufficient to effect a cure. Dose, 20 drops every three hours until improvement is set in. Use Belladonna if aconite has not been sufficient, and there remains a dimness of the eye. Dose, 20 drops of fluid extract three times a day. For an affection in the eye use

raw linseed oil, 2 ounces; tincture of Opium ½ drachm; 15 drops tincture of Camphor; ½ drachm Sweet Spirits Nitre. Apply with a feather twice a day. Seaton about three inches below the eye. Move the rowell every day. Let remain ten or twelve days.

DEURESIS, OR DIABETES.

Symptoms.—This malady is usually designated Diabetes Insipidus. It is a disease which may prevail at any period of the year, and it may be produced from a variety of causes. It may exist either in an endemic or sporadic form. It is an affection which calls for promptness and decision on the part of the Veterinary Surgeon; otherwise it may speedily terminate in the patient becoming glandered. The excessive drain of fluid from the system, a fact so peculiar in this disease, so deranges the vital economy of the blood as to favor the rapid development of the latter. The symptoms at the outset are frequently insidious. The appetite fails; the animal exhibits weakness of a general character, dullness of spirits, and perspiring readily upon slight exertion; the patient is thirsty; he urinates frequently, and the urine is secreted in great abundance.

Treatment.—The first essential towards the cure is to remove the cause of the disease, and as this generally arises from improper food, the diet should be thoroughly inspected, and what is objectionable at once removed.

Aconite.—I have cured great numbers of cases of Diabetes with this remedy. Use it in 20 drop doses, in 1 oz of water, every 3 or 4 hours apart.

Tincture of Iodine.—Sometimes the Aconite fails to produce the desired effect; in which case have recourse to the Tincture of Iodine. Use it in drachm doses, mixed with 2 ounces of water. The dose may be repeated morning, noon and night, for three or four days in succession.

MANGE.

SYMPTOMS.—The proofs of Mange are of a very direct nature. The existence of the insect upon the skin will at once afford certain and conclusive evidence of the existence of Mange. It can be readily determined. To do so, comb a quantity of the scurf from the skin, upon a piece of black cotton having a smooth surface, and by spreading the scurf upon it, and observing it closely, any one having a good vision may, if the insect be present, readily detect its movements with the naked eye. A good common pocket lens, however, will aid the observer materially.

TREATMENT—Outward application—Take Pyrolignious Acid, Linseed Oil and Turpentine, equal parts.

For inward treatment, give Arsenicum, Fowler's Solution, in drachm doses, 3 times a day. If the hair falls off, and the skin becomes loose and flabby, or if there are ulcers with hard red edges, give one ounce Iodide Potassa in one quart rain water. Dose—½ oz. 3 times a day. Keep the bowels open with bran mash.

GREASE—CHAPPED HEELS OR SCRATCHES.

EXTERNAL REMEDIES.—Prior to the application externally, remove the hair carefully from the sores, and cleanse them well with tepid water and soap. The external remedies comprise poultices, hot water bandages and fermentations. For poultices, boiled turnips, the same as for eating, and add one teacup of salt to each poultice; then apply three times; then apply glycerine once a day.

WORMS.

Are frequently met with in large quantities in horses, especially those that are kept upon unwholesome diet. There are several different kinds of worms, but, unless

they exist in large quantities, they are not so hurtful as is generally supposed. There is the Sumbrici, almost like the common earth worm, and generally about five or six inches long. These worms are sometimes the cause of a staring coat, hide bound, and tucked up flanks.

Remedy.—Take 2 oz. Aloes, divide into 8 parts, and give night and morning; then take 8 oz Fowler's Solution and give in drachm doses twice a day.

I will here add some of the best formulas for Lotions, Liniments, Blisters, Condition Powders, &c.:

COOLING LOTION.

Tincture Arnica.....1 pt.
Acetic Acid.....½ pt.
Salamoniac.....2 oz.
Soft Water.....1 qt.

This is one of the best lotions in use; it will reduce inflammation from strains, bruises, &c. The parts inflamed should be constantly wet with it.

CHLOROFORM LINIMENT.

Oil Cedar.....1 oz.
Oil Hemlock.....1 oz.
Oil Chloroform.....2 oz.
Alcohol.....4 oz.

This is a favorite Liniment. it is used by man for Inflamed Rheumatism, and by horsemen for Sprains and other lameness. The parts may be bathed from two to three times a day with the Liniment.

HEALING LINIMENT.

Oil Tar.....4 oz.
Camphor Gum.....4 oz.

Tincture Arnica.....8 oz.
Tincture Iodine.....3 oz.
Oil Spike.....1¾ oz.
Castile Soap.....8 oz.

Add 1 quart of soft water to 4 oz. of these ingredients, after being mixed. This Liniment is used for all open sores and fresh wounds.

THE ABSORBENTS.

Tincture Iodine.....4 oz.
Oil Vitrol.....½ oz.
Corrosive Sublimate.....½ oz.
Tinct. Cantharides.....1 oz.

Well mixed. In using this absorbent, from 3 to 5 applications will remove new Bone Spavins, new Ring Bones, and Curb or Splint, and any Blemish that is a hard callous, Bog Spavin or Thorough Pin. Use till there is a gummy substance starts; then stop.

BLOOD POWDERS.

Black Antimony.....3 oz.
Sulphur.....4 oz.
Powdered Golden Seal.....2 oz.

Mix well. This may be used in any case where the blood is supposed to be out of order, as in Poll Evil, Fistula, &c. Dose, a teaspoonful at night in the feed.

GREASE HEEL LINIMENT.

Pyroligneous Acid.....
Linseed Oil.....
Turpentine.....
} Equal Parts.

Wash the parts clean, and apply the above mixture twice daily; about once in three days the parts being the most sore should be well sprinkled with finely powered

charcoal. The bowels should be kept open with soft feed and a little Sulphur given once every day. Dose, half a teaspoonful.

COLIC CURE.

Powdered Mustard Seed.....1 oz.
Powdered Ginger.....2 oz.
Warm Water.....1 pt.

Give at a dose, and repeat in 15 minutes if there be no improvement.

CONDITION POWDERS.

Black Antimony.....3 oz.
Sulphur.....4 oz.
Cream Tartar.....4 oz.
Saltpetre.....4 oz.
Carbonate Ammonia.....2 oz.
Copperas.....4 oz.
Blood Root.....4 oz.

Well mixed. Dose—one table spoonful three times a day.

HOOF SALVE.

Tar.....½ pt.
Resin.....½ lb.
Beeswax.....½ lb.
Venice Turpentine.....2 oz.

Apply to the hoof, about one inch below the hair, twice a week.

WHIRLBONE LINIMENT.

Vinegar, (strong,).....1 pt.
Spirits Turpentine.....½ pt.
Whites of Eggs.....3
Origanum Oil.....1 oz.

This Liniment is used for Strain of the Stifle, Shoulder Lameness and Sweeny. For Whirlbone Lameness this

Liniment should be used twice a day, bathed in with a heated brick.

CONDITION POWDERS.

Powdered Gentian.....
Powdered Bloodroot.....
Powdered Golden Seal.....
Powdered Elecampane..... } of each 3 oz.

Mix; dose, teaspoonful every night in the feed. This powder will be found good for Coughs, Colds, &c., and may be given after Distemper, and for loss of appetite.

HEAVE POWDERS.

Tartar Emetic.....4 oz.
Carbonate Ammonia.....2 oz.
Ginger.....4 oz.
Skunk's Cabbage.....4 oz.

All finely powdered, and give one tea spoonful twice a day, morning and evening.

FLATULENT COLIC.

This occurs from fermentation of the food in the stomach, generating gas in large quantities. Green corn is a frequent cause of this disease. Symptoms are the same as in Spasmodic Colic, with the addition of the swelling.

Treatment.—This must be prompt to be effective. The same remedies are to be used as in Spasmodic Colic, with the addition of one or two drachms of Chloride of Lime to the dose, in ½ pint of hot water.

TO CURE THISTELO; OR POLL EVIL.

Cut the parts open and fill with common salt and soap, leave it in until the pipes and sack slough out, which

usually takes from three to four days; wash the wound with soap and warm water; if the diseased parts are not all sloughed out use more soap and salt. To heal apply a Liniment composed of

Linseed Oil.....6 oz.
Turpentine.....2 oz.
Pyroligneous Acid.....2 oz.

LIQUID BLISTER.

Take Alcohol ½ pint; Turpentine ½ pint; Aqaammonia 4 oz.; Oil Organum 1 oz. Apply this every three hours until it blisters. This is good for Big, or Milk Leg.

PHYSIC BALL.

Take ½ oz. Aloes; 3 drachms of Gamboge; 2 drops Oil of Juniper, and make into a pill, with a few drops of molasses.

THE GENERAL LINIMENT.

Linseed Oil.....½ pt.
Spirits of Ammonia.....2 oz.
Spirits of Turpentine.....2 oz.
Tincture of Capsicum.....½ oz.

Shake well, and it is for use. This is upon Sprains or Swellings of different kinds. It is good for man or beast. Apply it every evening by rubbing it in well with the naked hand.

ABSORBING PASTE.

Iodine.....100 grains.
Calomel.....50 grains.
Lard.....1 oz.

This is good for Curbs, Splints, Bog Spavin, Windgalls and Thorough Pins. Apply once a day for two or three days, or until it is blistered.

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